MONTEREY NEWS

July 2010
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The Town

by Sue Protheroe

The Monterey School

In a heavily attended meeting on June 7, the Select Board met with Berkshire Regional School Committee Chairman Herbert Abelow and District Superintendent Michael Singleton regarding the school committee's letter to the Board requesting that the town hold a special meeting to vote to close the Monterey School. Singleton had recommended that the school be closed due to low enrollment, the present teacher's retirement, and the physical condition of the building. He said that it will cost approximately $100,000 to $140,000 a year to educate the small number of children who are enrolled each year (seven will be enrolled next year) and feels the money could be spent more wisely in other areas.

Singleton discussed the physical condition of the school, pointing out that it is located directly on Route 23 and that he feels the playground isn't up to standards. In addition, the children have nowhere for recess in inclement weather since the second floor is unusable. The cost of needed repairs to the building, including the entranceways, the roof, the floor, the bathrooms, the second floor, the foundation, the basement, and the furnace, was estimated in October 2006 to be about $440,000, including upgrades to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act. If repairs or upgrades are made that equal or are greater than thirty per cent of the building's value, it will have to be made compliant with the ADA. According to the Monterey assessors, today's value of the building is $169,000.

Singleton said that although the school district is not required to run an educational program in the present building, under the existing district agreement it must run a program in Monterey, and he asked the Board if there are any suitable alternative sites that would perhaps accommodate a temporary building. The school district wants to solve problems,

Fran Amidon

Monterey veterans, Memorial Day, 2010, Veterans' Memorial Park.

he stated, and he asked that the Board of Selectmen come up with a list of suggestions.

The Board understands the reasons for Mr. Singleton's recommendations; however, they pointed out that the school has been a part of the community for years and it is important to the town. Several parents and other concerned citizens attended the meeting and voiced strong support for the school. Linda Thorpe made two points: very little has been spent on maintenance over the years, and replacing the retiring teacher, Susan Anderson, should present no problem, as there are a number of excellent candidates. Mr. Singleton conceded that maintenance of the school has been lacking, but the reason may have been that the projected future of the building has always been uncertain.

Under the present pact that governs the regional school district, all five district member towns have to agree to a school's closure. Select Board Chair Jon Sylbert said that although the restated school district agreement, which will permit the school's closing without Monterey's vote if the four other district towns vote for closure, was approved by Monterey at the May town meeting, it still has to be approved by two of the five district towns, New Marlborough and Egremont. (New Marlborough tabled a vote on the issue at a later town meeting.) All five district towns must approve the restated agreement for it to take effect. Egremont will not vote on the new pact until fall, and the district's attempt to close Monterey's school may make Egremont even more reluctant to okay it, since they also have a local school that is vulnerable to closure.

Sylbert stated that although the issue of the school's closing must go on the Monterey town meeting warrant next May, there is no reason to make the decision now. In July there will be public discussions about the future of the town, which will of course include the implications of closing the school.

Dr. Singleton agreed that this meeting was not supposed to be about closing of the school, but about researching other viable alternatives to continue providing education to Monterey. Herb Abelow felt it is the school committee's responsibility to close the school if they can find a reasonable alternative such as a portable classroom.

At its June 17th meeting, the Southern Berkshire Regional School District reversed its previous position on the Monterey School by a 6-4 vote and decided to work with the Monterey Select Board to find a way to repair the existing building and keep the program intact at the present location. Charles Flynn, one of Egremont's school committee representatives and a staunch supporter of decentralized local schools, convinced five of his colleagues to vote for a motion to find out what repairs will be necessary to be able to open the school in the fall. He was joined in the vote by Andy Fetterhoff, Dennis Sears, and Vito Valentini of Sheffield; Stephen Willig of Egremont; and Linda Silvestri of Alford. Committee members voting against the motion were Abelow and Charles McSpirit of New Marlborough; Catherine Miller of Sheffield; and Deborah Mielke of Monterey. Jon Sylbert was pleased with the change and said that that Monterey's Building Commissioner, Don Torrico, reported that the school needs "relatively minor" work to receive his approval for fall occupancy. Sylbert also said that the school's enrollment is ballooning and could be further boosted by adding a first grade, which the school has had in the past. (At a previous Monterey Select Board meeting, it was pointed out that getting high speed Internet access will also cause Monterey's population to grow.)

On June 28, representatives from the school committee and the district's Buildings and Grounds Committee met with Jon Sylbert and Monterey Director of Operations Maynard Forbes at the Monterey School to determine the repairs necessary

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to open the school in the fall. Don Torrico has passed the building concerning safety violations.

Community Center Driveway

Joe Baker, Gige O'Connell, and Shirley Olds from the Wilson-McLaughlin Committee attended a Select Board meeting to discuss the proposed driveway on the former Wilson-McLaughlin property that was deeded to the town in 1995 and is intended to become a community center. The May town meeting appropriated $25,000 for the driveway. The Select Board had walked the property and discussed various locations for the driveway, the main concern being that the currently proposed driveway off Route 23 will not have a safe exit and entrance. Several shorter, more direct, and less expensive options were presented. After a lengthy discussion involving the various sites, and the proposed future of the property, the three Select Board members each had a different opinion, so they decided it makes sense for the Wilson McLaughlin Committee and Maynard Forbes to try to come up with a logical solution, and then meet with the Board again. Jon Sylbert feels that putting a driveway on the property before there are plans for a building is premature, even though funds were voted in the town meeting. He suggested that the town highway crew cut back trees and bushes on the existing driveway to make it more visible, and that the decision on any new driveway be delayed until the school issue is resolved and the plans for the Wilson house are finished. Selectman Wayne Burkhart said that he would like to go ahead with the plans to locate the driveway with its entrance on Route 23, because this would best serve the present and future needs of the property.

At the June 28th meeting, Selectman Scott Jenssen reported that a representative of the Zoning Board thinks the driveway entrance on Route 23 is not safe. The Select Board decided that the Wilson McLaughlin Committeeshould meet with the Zoning Board concerning the safety and special permit required for the driveway.

Elizabeth Blackwell

Julia Bronson and her trained goat, Esperanza of Rawson Brook Farm, high-stepping in the Memorial Day parade.

Police Blotter

- Call from Hupi Road regarding stolen items in a divorce case.
- Assisted Fire Department with a medical call; boy dove out of moving boat.
- Problem at boat launch with property exchange in a domestic case.
- Well-being check, Corashire road; person walking down road reading a book.
- Restraining order on Chestnut Hill.
- Hikers on Appalachian Trail needed assistance.
- ATVs on Hupi Road; parties were informed of the laws.
- Canon camera lost at town beach on Memorial Day; call police if found.
- Complaint of dump trucks on short Hupi Road.
- False alarms, Bidwell Road, Hupi Road, Beartown Mountain Road, and at the library.
- Orange canoe lost on Lake Garfield; call police if found.
- Medical assist, Main Road.
- Loose cows, Blue Hill Road.
- Assisted Fire Department with alarm, Beartown Mountain Road.
- Well-being check, Pixley Road.
- Suspicious activity, New Marlborough Road (official environmental check).
- Suspicious activity, Lake Garfield; Fire Department doing drill in an airboat.
- Suspicious activity, Blue Hill Road.
- Abandoned house check on Sylvan Road; a family of raccoons (Board of Health has already checked).
- 911 call, New Marlborough Road.
- Breaking and entering on Beartown Mountain Road; nothing taken.

Around Town Hall

Fire Chief Raymond Tryon met with the Board on June 28th as requested to discuss the Fire Chief's position. There were some questions about insurance coverage, and whether his age would be a factor. Also, the Board requested that a plan be in place for a successor when Ray retires. Because previous records showed that the Fire Department was not set up as a regular town department, but as a corporation, other questions were raised, and it was decided that more information was needed. Chief Tryon also provided a list of firefighters and EMTs, and the Board reappointed all of them. >

At the June 28th Select Board meeting, a bid was accepted from Howard P. Fairfield for a municipal dump truck, at the base price of $49,549. A stainless steel body and sander will be added.

Tim O'Donnell of Infinity Engineering came to reported at the June 14th Select Board meeting that field testing has been completed so that his company will be able to find suitable sites for cell towers. The Board said that any changes to the current telecommunications bylaws will have to be made by the Planning Board and then put to a town meeting vote. Wayne Burkhart also suggested O'Donnell talk with Berkshire Regional Planning.

Sarah Hudson delivered some information on the health effects of cell towers. She said that it was for information only and that she has no official stand on the matter.

Maynard Forbes met with the Select Board on June 14 to report that some historical material from the Monterey Library was to be moved to the Town Hall, with he Historical Society's approval. Forbes noted that a dehumidifier was needed and that a display needed to be set up to house the items in two glass cases as the Historical Society had requested. As of June 21, several objects had been located at Town Hall.

Forbes noted that New England Keswick has a forest cutting plan on file with the Conservation Commissions, but they haven't yet applied for a permit with the town.

The Select Board appointed Wayne Burkhart as the representative to the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority advisory board. Wayne was also nominated as an alternate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Committee.

The Board approved supporting two bills in the Massachusetts House of Representatives: H.4374, An Act To Require Producer Responsibility for Collection, Reuse, and Recycling of Discarded Electronic Products; and H.726, An Act Relative to Producer Responsibility for Mercury-Added Lamps.

The Board approved the extension agreement with the Center for Environmental Technology for the collection of hazardous waste.

Michael Storch, representing the Finance Committee, reported that the committee is not in favor of a contract with Building Commissioner Don Torrico. The committee feels that it would accomplish nothing and would complicate matters.

There is now an outdoor drinking fountain at the back of Town Hall.

Town Hall will be closed Monday, July 5, for the observance of Independence Day.

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Community Center News

The Monterey Community Garden was a project of widespread notice for spring 2010, and we hope it will provide much pleasure and pride for the coming summer. We all look forward to harvest time.

The Wilson House is now much safer and content under a new roof, which will now allow us the opportunity to deal with the rest of the structure. Because the building is so old, there has been an accumulation of what we now know to be hazardous materials. We have invested in a professional plan to bring the structure up to the standards necessary for public use. Starting in the basement, with the replacement of the oil tanks and their residue, attention will then turn to the removal of asbestos, lead paint, etc., throughout. As you might imagine, this process will be costly as well as time consuming. However, it is a necessary and significant step in the process of providing Monterey with our Community Center. Please join us in building for the future and send your tax-deductible contribution to: Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House Inc., P.O. Box 302, Monterey, Ma 01245.

— Cynthia Weber

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From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2011 real estate and personal property first quarter tax bills were mailed on July 1 and are due **August 2**, 2010. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). These bills are preliminary and list the first two quarters based on last year's tax rate. You will receive another bill for the second quarter in October (due November 1). However, if you wish, you may pay both the first and second quarters now. Once again, pay online is available at www.montereyma.gov.

Questions regarding personal property, assessments, or exemptions should be directed to the Board of Assessors at 413-528-1443 x115.

The tax collector's office will close at noon on July 10.

— Mari Enoch, Monterey Tax Collector

Blood Drive July 27

A blood drive sponsored by the Monterey Board of Health will be held at Monterey Town Hall on Tuesday, July 27, from 10 am–3 pm. You can schedule an appointment by going to www.givelife.org or calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

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Lake Buel District Meeting

The Lake Buel Restoration and Preservation District held its annual meeting on Saturday, May 29, at the Monterey Meetinghouse. The officers reelected to the District were Paula Hatch, committee chair; Chris Hassett and Chris Cobb, committee members; Fred Vorck, New Marlborough representative; and David Logan, Monterey representative.

The salary for the weed harvester was discussed and passed. It was pointed out that because Lake Buel has been harvesting milfoil for 24 years, and because the harvester has the ability to remove a lot of the harvested weeds from the lake, phosphorous loading has been greatly reduced.

The lake is being maintained at the recommended level of 908 feet above sea level. Residents are asked not to take it upon themselves to adjust the boards at the end of the lake, but to contact a member of the Prudential Committee, which is responsible for control of the lake level, with the object of controlling flooding. Dan Moriarty was commended for the amount of work he has given to the Watershed Committee, and for the ongoing plans he has implemented to study further ongoing flood control.

In order to control contamination by zebra mussels, boats should be washed in an acceptable way. Stockbridge Mobil, at 35 Main Street in Stockbridge (formerly Hall's Garage), will wash boats at no charge. Their driveway is located to the right of Berkshire Insurance Group and Daily Bread Bakery in downtown Stockbridge. The Mobil Station is open Wednesdays from 3–7 pm, Thursdays 3–7 pm, Fridays 12–7 pm, Saturdays 9 am – 6 pm, and Sundays 12–6 pm. The station is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

— Sue Protheroe

Vacancies on Town Boards

The Select Board has begun the FY2011 appointment process for various town boards and committees. They are looking for people to serve on:

- Council on Aging: one open seat, three-year term
- Employee Compensation Committee: one open seat, one-year term
- Historical Commission: two open seats, three-year term
- Veteran's Memorial Committee: one open seat, two-year term
- Park Commission: one open seat, two-year term

Citizens willing to serve should send a letter of interest, either by email to townmont@verizon.net, or by mail to Board of Selectmen, PO Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

You Are Invited...
To the Bidwell House Museum's Summer Benefit
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www.bidwellhousemuseum.org

Monterey Honors Susan Andersen

Lisa Smyle

A good time was had by all on June 19 as we feted Susan Andersen at the Firehouse pavilion. Over two hundred people attended, including many former students, their parents, and well-wishers from the Monterey community. The party for Mrs. Andersen celebrated her 37 years of dedicated service at the Monterey School. She received a citation from our state representative, Smitty Pignatelli. Susan also gave a heartfelt speech and enjoyed listening to others reminisce about what she and the village school meant to them. We ate delicious cake and homemade goodies and listened to music by Karl Finger. Many alumnae stood up and recited "The Owl and the Pussy Cat" with Mrs. Andersen sitting in the front, smiling as she said the words with them. We were all glad that Susan's family could also attend as well as her four paraprofessional aides, Linda Thorpe, Julie Arnett Kelly, Elaine Bertoli, and Belinda Twing.

The organizing committee was Gige O'Connell, Barbara Dahlman, Franny Huberman, Cathy and Buddy Rodgers, and Jonathan Sylbert. We would like to thank CJ and the Harvest Barn at Gould Farm for providing two beautiful cakes; the Monterey Fire Company for the use of the pavilion, helping with set up, and especially for purchasing the drinks, watermelon, and paper goods; the Monterey Coffee Club for financial help; the Friends of the Monterey Library for donating the Hoodsie cups and a book of poetry to be given to the Monterey Library in Susan Andersen's name; the Monterey Park Commission for the Portapotties and the Shopper's Guide advertisement; Kenn and the Monterey General Store for being so flexible, and for catering this event; Buddy and Cathy Rodgers for the beautiful flowers and the ream of paper; Belinda Twing for her organizing efforts; Deirdre Higgins for putting together the Facebook page; Karl Finger for providing music; everyone who brought a potluck dessert; Ghi Signs for a significant discount on the banner.

— Mary Makuc

Life, & the Monterey School

At the recent town celebration in her honor, Susan Andersen, beloved kindergarten teacher of many in the community, had the following reflections on her 37 years at the Monterey School.

I know how heavily scheduled, overprogramed, laden with deadlines and obligations you are, and I'm honored that you've come here today. School is like life; you learn some stuff and figure out how to use it. The trick is to remember it when you need it. In the end, you don't have to learn much to muddle through. One of the most important things you learn in life, as a toddler, is how to fall. Later you learn how to fall and roll out of the way. Even later you have to fall, roll out of the way, and figure out how to stand up again. Like the weather in the Berkshires, life changes constantly. Sometimes the changes are slow and barely perceptible. Sometimes they are swift and brutal.

When you feel outmaneuvered by changes in life you have to adjust your expectations. You cannot enjoy a life that overwhelms you. I have had the

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opportunity to learn, unlearn, and relearn a lot of what I know in the company of five-year-olds. They've taught me that life isn't so much about success but about the act of striving. The act of striving feeds and breeds confidence. Confidence makes you a little more fearless and harder to knock down.

They've taught me that inspiration is the largest part of creativity. Inspiration feeds you purpose—something to work for that nourishes you. It pushes you to work a little bit harder. Ultimately all you have to do in life is outwork and or outsmart the competition. Confidence, inspiration, and purpose will propel you through childhood and adulthood. They are signature strengths that endure. They are the winning combination.

I've had purposeful, fulfilling work for a long time. I've failed to help some children maximize their potential. Confidence, inspiration, and purpose helped me to figure out how to work smarter and harder moving forward.

"Success" and "goals" are popular buzzwords in education. Children do track success in order to discard failure. Adults and educators tend to idolize success and worry, obsess, or immerse themselves in the lack of successes or the failure. You can't depend on success. It's specific. It comes and goes—can fade and perish. Look at our financial system today.

Like success, goals are prized in education and in life in general. We break down purpose into tiny particles like dots and pixels at the expense of the big picture or purpose. When we fixate on goals, they can narrow your focus and be restrictive and confining. You can achieve a quick ten-pound weight loss goal eating grapefruit and drinking lemon water. The goal may defeat the purpose of wellness and good health.

When my husband was sick we spent a lot of time at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. When you spend time with people that live while they're dying you gain a clear-eyed sense of what's important in life. Your priorities and tolerance levels realign themselves immediately and automatically. Deadlines, tensions, stress, botched dinner plans, and disappointing dress sizes are not the real happiness stealers. There are people starving for life. There are people starving for one more now. When you accompany someone you love to death's gate you come face to face with your limitations as a human.

Lisa Smyle

Jonah Carlson and Gabriella Makuc present Mrs. Andersen with 569 crayons, one for each of the 569 students she taught in Monterey.

You don't have to hold the best cards in life. You have to play the ones you have as best you can. Life requires that you accept things that are difficult and different. Try not to let disappointment, loss, and unmet goals or failures steal your joy. Sometimes sunshine is glorious—sometimes it's a dangerous glare. Not every cloud has a silver lining.

We all contribute talent and preparation at work. Unusual opportunity and lucky breaks are the rule, NOT the exception, to being honored for achievement at a grand reception like this. I found myself doing purposeful, fulfilling work in a unique place at the right time.

Five-year-olds are the story of everything that's right on the planet. I can't write well enough to describe the honor, privilege, and appreciation I feel for having been a small part in this story. I can tell you that I look forward to the next part of my life through the lens of gifts and abundance that are all of you.

My plan is not to have a plan, but my purpose will be to live the life that is waiting with PUGNACIOUS JOY and appropriate measures of forbearance and grace. I'm confident that five-year-olds have taught me everything I need to know. I've been drinking at the fountain of youth from a fire hydrant for 35 years. I know how to live out loud. I know how to walk around with a big smile and a winning air. So cover your children with kisses and let's enjoy this magnificent now.

Thank you.

— Susan Andersen

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McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarships Awarded to 15 Monterey Students

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation announced that the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund awarded a total of $49,750 in scholarships to fifteen students from Monterey. The fund, created in 1994 by Edith Wilson in memory of her long-time friend Marjorie McLaughlin, supports the young people of Monterey as they pursue a college education.

First-time scholarships for undergraduate fall enrollment were awarded to:

- Ashley Backhaus, Berkshire Community College
- Norah Crossnohere, Skidmore College
- Nina Cobb, National Sports & Conditioning Association
- Keller Dinan, Endicott College
- Jason Duryea, Unity College

Renewal scholarships for undergraduate studies were awarded to:

- Jessica Brown, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- William Casey, Plymouth State
- Annabel Edelman, Hampshire College
- Bennett Ferris, Brown University
- Jesse Johnston, Northeastern
- Grace Mendel, Grinnell College
- Barbara McAlister, Mt. Holyoke
- Dinah Mielke, Endicott College
- Oona Sellew, Ithaca College
- Emily Shaw, Roger Williams

A committee of Monterey residents reviewed applications and awarded scholarships based on academic achievement, community service, desire to achieve academic and life goals, and financial need.

The next deadline for scholarship applications is May 1, 2011. Applications are available at the Monterey Library, online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/grants-scholarships.html or by calling 413-229-0370.

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund is an endowment of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Berkshire Taconic is the community foundation serving Berkshire County, MA; Columbia County and northeast Dutchess County, NY; and northwest Litchfield County, CT. For more information contact Berkshire Taconic at 800 North Main Street, PO Box 400, Sheffield, MA 01257-0400, 413-229-0370, info@berkshiretaconic.org or visit www.berkshiretaconic.org.

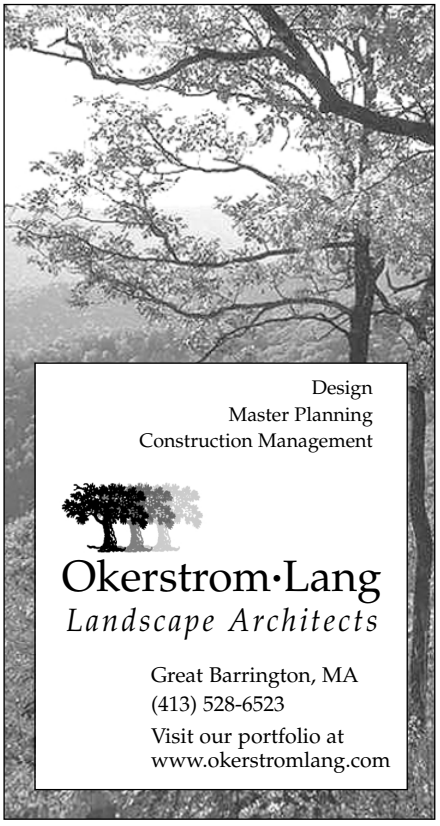
John Demos to Speak on Early American Social World

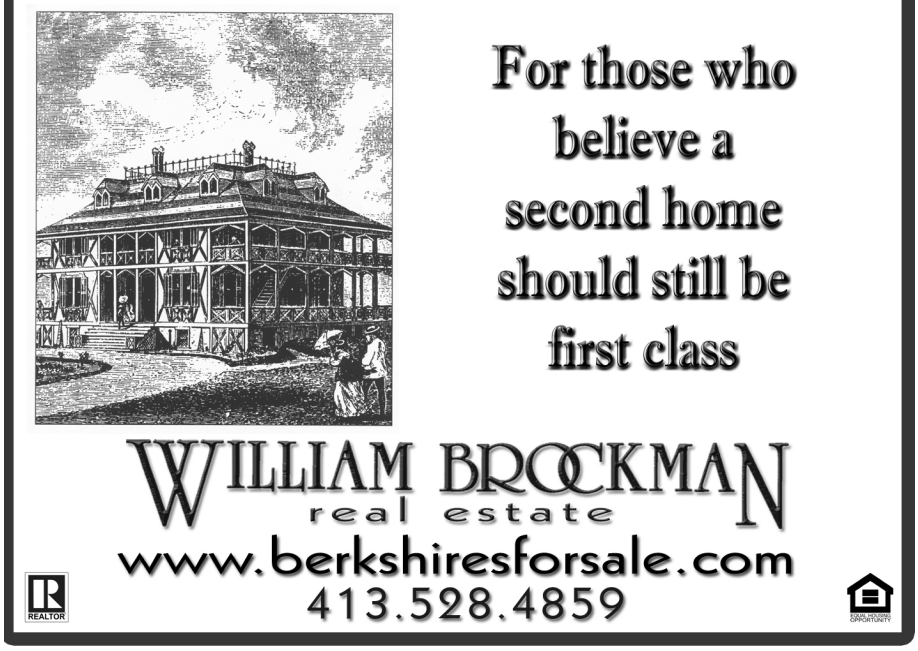
The Bidwell House Museum is offering a talk by Professor John Demos on Saturday, July 10, at 10 am on the subject of social life, social conventions and rules in America in the 1700s. The talk is part of his "The Lost World of Early America" series.

Professor Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of American History Emeritus at Yale University, is the author of many prize-winning books, including "The Unredeemed Captive" (1994), winner of the coveted Francis Parkman Award. He will give two other talks in the series, on August 14, "The Cultural World: Ways and Means of Communication"; and August 28, "The Supernatural World: Religion, Magic, Witchcraft, and 'Wonders'."

The community is invited for any one talk or for the whole series. Professor Demos will suggest some readings, and discussion is invited in each session. Pre-registration is encouraged.

All talks will take place on Saturdays at 10 am at the Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham (a five-minute drive from the Bidwell House Museum). The $15 suggested donation benefits the museum. To register or for further information, call the museum at 413-528-6888. www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.





Monterey Library Notes

July Events at the Library

Greg McAdams will perform his magic for young readers on Saturday, July 3. The following two Saturdays, July 10 and 17, we will have a story hour with a craft. On July 24, Dr. Marmalade will bring her puppets for a performance, and on Saturday, July 31, Tom Sieling will entertain the kids while you shop for the best book bargains at our annual book sale. Saturday, August 7, will feature the return of Mary Jo Maichak, who spins many wonderful tales. All performances will be at 10:30 am at the library and are sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Monterey Cultural Council. Young Readers are invited to sign up for the summer reading program and get a free stuffed bear or flash drive. This year's theme is Go Green! Children who read enough can get free ice cream cones at the Monterey General Store—a great incentive!

Don't forget to stop by on Saturday, July 31, from 9 am to 1 pm to support our Friends of the Library Book Sale. Thousands of books at bargain prices!

The Friends of the Monterey Library have been instrumental in procuring several new museum passes for the library this year. We now have passes to Arrowhead, the Frelinghausen Morris House and Studio, the Mission House, the Folly at Field Farm, The Colonel Ashley House, Bartholomew's Cobble, and Naumkeag! Thanks to Ella Carlson, one of our youngest friends, you can view all the passes available at the library on our website, found by going to the Town of Monterey's site at montereyma.gov. And a special thanks to the Monterey Cultural Council for the passes to the Sandisfield Arts Center events. If you wish to attend any Sandisfield Arts Program you should call the contact number and make sure a seat is available for reservation. Then you may come to the library and borrow the pass. This procedure is necessary only for this pass.

Finally, I would like to thank all who in any way advocated for libraries in the current budget cycle. It's not too late to become a fan of We love Western Mass Libraries on Facebook. There will be even more of a need for advocacy for our small libraries, because the final budget result was not positive. Our beloved Western Massachusetts Regional Library System will close their doors on June 30. We will be saying goodbye to many dedicated professionals who have devoted decades to helping those small libraries most in need in the state.

WMRLS has been behind many of the most important as well as many of the unseen services the Monterey Library has provided over the years. To begin with, they have been providing the training to keep library staff up to date in providing services. Of course they ran the bookmobile for all those years, and they still will continue to provide the delivery for CWMARS for the next year until a new system is in place. They have helped run the reference centers, and before the Internet many questions were answered here in this library through that program. They provided consultations in all aspects of library service, and I can't look around this building and think of any project or service they weren't involved with. WMRLS was responsible for all of those services that you couldn't believe would be found in a rural library. WMRLS gave us our first connection with the Internet—and has provided technical services right up to today.

We will miss those friends who made it their business to make sure small libraries had the ability to provide the services their communities needed—WMRLS was instrumental in bringing WiFi to many towns. The future of many services is guaranteed, but there is no guarantee the one-size-fits-all approach sent from Boston will help the Monterey Library as WMRLS did. We will be fighting to keep our delivery up to the high standards set by the drivers of WMRLS.

The successes of the Monterey Library thanks to WMRLS will not be forgotten, and we will need your help in the coming years to ensure that the mistake made by the governor's picked committee in this merger does not put us back in the twentieth century. Stay tuned—this political battle has just started.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

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Friends of Library Need Your Help!

Please volunteer to spend an hour or two helping with our major fund raiser, the July 31st book sale from 9 am to 1 pm. Our big need is for help in putting the remaining books away at the sale's conclusion. Sign-up sheet is on the library door; or show up at 1 pm to help.

We will also sell plants during the book sale. If you can pot some of your perennials that have over-stepped their bounds, please bring them to the library on July 31 as early as 9 am. Myrna Rosen will again receive a generous donation of annuals from Clark's Garden Center in Lee. We know that you will find plants to spruce up your garden.

The Friends will have a table at the book sale where you can buy a raffle for a chance to be one of the first to wear a Friends t-shirt or win a book. And, we will be launching the campaign for this year's membership in Friends. Please sign up at the sale or the library to join or renew your membership.

Your membership and book sale proceeds last year bought, with matching grant money, many new books as well as passes to additional area attractions.

Please also consider volunteering as little as an hour during regular library hours in July and August. Our librarians are swamped during these busy months. No skills necessary. If you have any familiarity with the alphabet you can help restock books and magazines. Just ask the librarian on duty what you can do to help.

We welcome Susan Cain, our newest Friends director. She has many good ideas for fundraising and children's projects.

Our book sale organizational meeting will be Monday, July 12, at 6:30 pm. Please come.

— Lonnie Solomon
Friends of Monterey Library

Bidwell Romantic Garden Party at Fiddletop

The place to be on the afternoon of August 7 this year is the Bidwell House Museum's Romantic Garden Party at historic Fiddletop estate. All friends, neighbors, and members of the museum are invited from 4 to 7 pm to spend a charmed summer afternoon in one of the most beautiful spots in the Berkshires. Guests will stroll the grounds, sip cocktails, enjoy delectable hors d'oeuvres, tour parts of the house, and bid on treasures to take home—all to benefit the museum.

Fiddletop is a unique estate property sitting high on a ridge above Monterey and is currently the home of William Brockman. Formerly the estate was the summer home of Eugene Ormandy, principal conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and before him was owned by the concert violinist Zino Francescatti, who appropriately named it Fiddletop. Both world-famous musicians made highly acclaimed appearances at Tanglewood with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The summer gala is the major fundraising event of the year for the museum. Local businesses are donating items for the auction, including a lunch for two at the Red Lion Inn, a case of fine wines donated by Domaney's Liquors, and a Butternut Ski Package, among many great prizes.

Tickets to the Romantic Garden Party are $35 per person and can be reserved by contacting the museum office at 413-528-6888, or emailing bidwellhouse@gmail.com.

Bidwell House Stone Wall Workshop

Have you ever wanted to learn how to build a good stone wall? Here's your chance. Monterey native Roger Tryon, stone wall builder and landscaper, will give a workshop and hands-on demonstration at the Bidwell House Museum on Saturday, July 24, from 10 am to noon. Roger and workshop participants will review some of the existing dry-laid stone walls near the museum and then work on rebuilding one or two sections of walls using traditional tools. Most of the stones can be picked up by one person, and we will have bars and other traditional tools to help maneuver larger ones.

Those who want to participate in the hands-on work should bring work gloves, hard-toe boots, and eye protection. Other attendees are welcome to observe the work without lifting rocks. An excellent guidebook about the art of building stone walls will be available to order. A picnic lunch will be available. Workshop donation is $15, $10 for members. For more information, call 413-528-6888.

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Cultural Council Events

It's summer and the Monterey Cultural Council has sprung into full entertainment mode. Mark your calendar for the following events, brought to you free or for a low fee by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (a state agency) and the Monterey Cultural Council. Refreshments will be provided by the Monterey General Store.

Evening of Music with Seth Farber, Liz Queler, & Joey Farber
Saturday, July 10, 7:00 pm.

This fabulous talented trio—and happy family—has made music in Monterey for the last two summers, starting what we hope will be an annual tradition. Queler, a gifted songwriter and singer, is currently working on "The Edna Project," a song cycle set to the poetry of Berkshire denizen Edna St. Vincent Millay. Seth Farber is a composer, master pianist, and Broadway musical director. Their precocious son, Joey, plays the piano, but his specialty is drumming, a sight one must see to believe. Their free concert will be held at the Monterey Meetinghouse, with refreshments to follow. If you missed it last year, write this on this year's calendar in ink.

Pastel Painting with Greg Maicheck
Friday, July 16, 6:00–8:00 pm

"Postimpressionism: Van Gogh's *Starry Night*" is a pastel painting workshop designed for adults and teens, from sheer beginners to advanced participants who want to paint expressively. Maicheck, a faculty member of the Springfield Museum Studio School, will explain exciting Postimpressionist concepts and then start you off by sharing a fearless approach to drawing. You will then find it effortless to work in tandem with the artist expressively drawing *Starry Night* with white charcoal pencils on black paper.

Also, van Gogh's *Terrace of a Café at Night* (Place du Forum) will be explored and displayed to paint from, enabling further mastery of van Gogh's unique vision. A demonstration of pastel handling techniques that allow a command of edges, scumbling, blending, slurring, and layering, and a demonstration of various strokes will illustrate van Gogh's methods. You will develop your own pastel paintings while understanding decorative qualities such as energetic line and bold color.

This workshop, which will take place in the meetinghouse basement, includes all materials: Indigo paper, white charcoal pencils, black paper, Rembrandt soft pastels, Nupastels, French and English pastel pencils, assorted colored mid-toned Canson pastel paper, and other materials. All participants keep their pastel painting(s).

Previous workshops were sold out and space is limited to 15, so make your reservation now with John Heffernan: 413-644-9235 or email jeh111@juno.com.

Poetry Class with Deborah Bernhardt
Saturdays, July 10 & 17, 3–5 pm

These classes will be a laboratory for experimenting with language and a workshop for revising the results. Writing exercises and reading contemporary poems will be part of the creative process. No experience necessary! Deborah Bernhardt has an MFA in Creative Writing and has received national as well as international poetry fellowships and literature grants. Her first collection, *Echolalia*, was published by Four Way Books (NY) in 2006 as winner of the Intro Prize for Poetry (it is available at Monterey Library). Workshops will meet on two Saturdays. The cost is $20. A celebratory reading will be held on Sunday, July 18, at 2 pm. The poetry class will host the reading, and members of the community are invited to participate in the open mike portion of the reading. Both the classes and the reading will be held at the Monterey General Store. For more information, email Deborah Bernhardt at Deborah.Bernhardt@gmail.com.

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Wendy Tryon Named Clinician of Year

The Lee Regional Visiting Nurse Association has announced that Wendy Tryon of Monterey, a registered nurse and public health nurse at the LRVA for the past twenty-four years, has received the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts prestigious award of Clinician of the Year.

Each year Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts celebrates home care providers who represent the pinnacle of care and compassion. They choose an individual who consistently demonstrates an exceptional degree of clinical excellence in the use of his/her skills, has a commitment to individual professional growth, makes special contributions to the agency and team colleagues, has a special degree of caring and commitment to patients, and, has longevity in the home care profession. This year's meeting was held on Wednesday, June 9 in Sturbridge.

Tryon is the Community Health Coordinator in charge of all LRVNA clinics, including blood pressure, cholesterol, flu, HINI, and falls prevention. She is the agency nurse representing the Boards of Health in twelve communities in central and southern Berkshire County, performing a wide range of public activities associated with that position.

Wendy is also a school nurse at one of the local schools in Lee.

In addition, she volunteers her energy in the community doing Trager demonstrations and information meetings on everything from HINI to basic nutrition counseling. She runs health fairs in these communities and has served over forty thousand unduplicated clients over the years. And, on a personal note, Wendy is one of the cofounders (along with a former LRVNA nurse) of a student nurse scholarship program at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center in Tanzania. This program provides financial assistance to needy young Tanzanian women to help them obtain a diploma in nurse education.

The two South County AAA Cal Ripken League baseball teams finished the season with a combined record of 20 wins and 9 losses. The two teams, with players from Otis, Monterey, Great Barrington, New Marlborough, and surrounding towns played home games at Greene Park on route 23 in Monterey and away games in Lee, Lenox, Lanesboro, Cheshire, and Williamstown. A summer baseball program of pick up games for players 8–12 years old takes place in Monterey on Saturday mornings at 10:30 am.

Otis Arts Festival July 24

The Third Annual Otis Arts Festival will take place on Saturday, July 24, 2010, from 9 am–3 pm, at the Farmington River Elementary School, 555 Main Road (Rte. 8), Otis. Many forms of media will be represented. Entertainment will feature Moonshine Holler, Appalachian fiddlers and singers (11 am–1 pm), Henry the Juggler (11 am), fiddler Leland Martin and accompanist Joe Dziok (1:15 pm–3 pm). Admission is FREE. This event is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For more infomation, call 413-269-0220.

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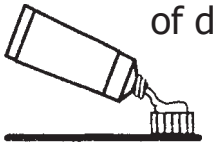

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Bidwell House Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Bidwell House Museum, Monterey's own museum of Berkshire colonial history, is celebrating its twentieth season this summer with community events, workshops, history talks, guided walks, and a "Romantic Garden Party."

Twenty years is a special milestone for the museum. It began with a group of men and women some 25 years ago with a vision for an extraordinary endeavor: opening a museum in the middle of the forest, high on a Berkshire hillside, a mile off the nearest paved road. The founders strategized about how to bring a 1750's manse and grounds into its next life, that of a historic colonial home for everyone.

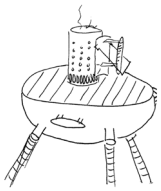
The house had had numerous lives: first parsonage of Township No. 1 (Tyringham and Monterey), Bidwell Farm, Carrington Family Farm, then a period of decline as part of a lumbering operation, an art school, a summer home for New Yorkers, and the home and 25-year restoration project of Jack Hargis and David Brush. Hargis and Brush were the owners who donated the restored house and collection of furnishings with the hope that it would become a museum. The founding board members, led by Jack Jefferson and Bill Brockman, took the leap in 1990 to open the Bidwell House Museum at the end of Art School Road.

Twenty years later, the museum is celebrating the founders' vision and is grateful for their determination. The mission of the museum has been adapted over the years, thanks to the continued dedication of the Board of Directors. They have been aided by the skill and knowledge of several generations of volunteers and staff, and many generous friends and supporters who have donated their time and resources. It is their achievement that the residents of the Berkshires have a historic site dedicated to telling the story of colonial life in these hills.

I wonder sometimes, sitting in this beautiful house, if the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell could have imagined his home today when he first arrived on Bear Town Mountain at the center of this Hinterland settlement. Bidwell was called to be the first settled pastor of the newly founded Housatonic Township No. 1 and ordained as the minister of the settlement on October 3, 1750—his house and the first meetinghouse unfinished. That is the other anniversary for the Bidwell House Museum this year—a 260th. Thanks to the museum's founders, we have a much better chance of imagining his life two and a half centuries ago. It is a wonderful story, which the museum and grounds tell compellingly. Visitors get to experience a colonial kitchen with its beehive oven, the parlors, and bedchambers. And our location deep in the woods feels authentic. There is no highway rumble or modern intrusion, just beautiful trails, fields, forest, and historic stone walls. A visit here is a wonderful escape to the eighteenth century.

The Bidwell House Museum's mission is as a New England heritage landmark that uses the history of its land, house, and collections to reimagine, re-create, restore and research colonial and early American life in western Massachusetts. The museum is open every day except Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 am to 4 pm with tours on the hour, Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stone walls, trails, and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

— Barbara Palmer, Director
Bidwell House Museum



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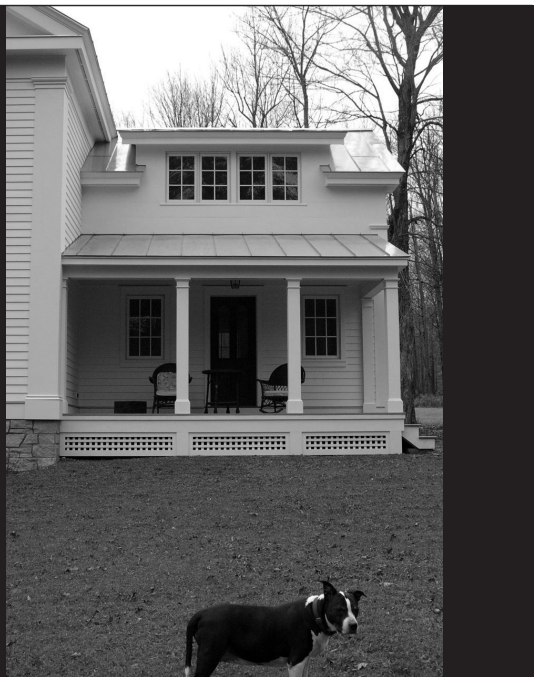

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South County RX Round Up

CHP-South Berkshire Community Coalition joins forces with the Great Barrington Police Department and Fairview Hospital to establish the South County RX Round Up. The South County RX Round Up will lead to a safer community for our youth and protect the environment.

How the initiative works

Berkshire County residents will bring in their unused, unwanted or expired medications to the Great Barrington Police Station and dispose of them in a DEA-approved disposal container. All contents are then collected and properly destroyed. The initiative has two phases. The first involves two one-day take-back opportunities, the first of which is on July 10, 2010, from 9 am–2 pm at the Great Barrington Police Station; the second will correspond with a national take-back program that is set to launch on November 13, 2010. The second phase will establish an ongoing prescription drug take-back program.

Why the initiative is important

Properly disposing of unused, unwanted or expired prescription medication ensures that they are not readily available to our youth. Nonmedical prescription drug use rates second highest amongst all youth illicit drug users. Their source is primarily friends' and relatives' medicine cabinets. In one study, 10 percent (nationally) of youth aged 12–25 reported nonmedical use of prescription drugs in the last thirty days. Twenty percent of South County youth report having used prescription drugs nonmedically in their lifetime as compared to 16 percent in Berkshire County and 13 percent nationally (2009 PNAS).

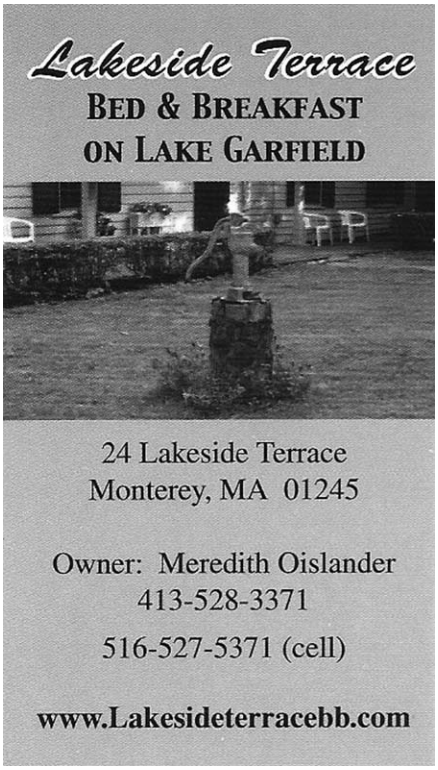
Discarded medication also is getting into the nation's waste-water treatment plants and getting into drinking water supplies. Scientists with the United States Geological Society conducted a study of over 130 rivers, streams and other waterways in the U.S. and found antibiotics, antidepressants, birth control pills, seizure medication, cancer treatments, pain killers, tranquilizers, and cholesterol-lowering compounds in over 80 percent of those tested.

The South County RX Round Up is the first medication disposal program in Berkshire County. The program is open to anyone who wants to dispose of medication.

South Berkshire Community Coalition is dedicated to preventing the onset of youth substance use and to empowering the community by advancing community-generated ideas. South Berkshire Community Coalition was established in 2001 and is a program of Community Health Programs (CHP).

Glynis Oliver

Monterey School kindergartners reciting A. A. Milne's "Jane" at June 17th poetry recital and dramatization, the last by a Susan Andersen class. From left: Cole, Maya, Charlotte, Grace, Nadia, Ben, Sean.



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Recipe of the Month

Attention, Monterey cooks and food lovers! How would you like to get a peek at some of the favorite recipes of your Monterey friends and neighbors? Then join in and share your submissions for the new "Recipe of the Month" column in the *Monterey News*. Send your ideas to Lisa Smyle at slysmyle@berkshire.net, and we'll publish a new recipe every month.

Here's the inaugural recipe, courtesy of Cynthia Makuc. Bon appétit!

Cynthia Makuc's Easy Lemon Cookies
(Yields 36 servings)

Ingredients
1(18.25 ounce) package lemon cake mix
2 eggs
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon lemon extract (I use real lemon juice)
1/3 cup confectioner sugar

Directions
1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
2. Pour cake mix into large bowl. Stir in eggs, oil, and lemon extract until well blended. Drop teaspoons of dough into a bowl of confectioner sugar. Roll them around until they are lightly covered. Once sugared, put them on an ungreased cookie sheet.
3. Bake for 6 to 9 minutes until bottoms are light brown and the insides chewy.

These are inexpensive, easy to make, and tasty!

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Night in July

Here we are
sitting in our nightclothes
on the porch steps
trying to tell the fireflies
from the stars
I never saw the color of your hair
before it turned to white
nor you mine - no matter

a soft surge of air
full of that fragrance
of warm mown grass
and summer hay floats by
you put your arm
around my shoulder
so much love!

together we feel
like Philemon and Baucis
waiting on the gods.

— A. O. Howell

Flower Garden

Upon my wall is a garden of flowers,
captured in still life forms.
Their beauty radiantly shining.
Colored by interpretation,
released through an artist touch.
Showing the magnificence of creation,
retaining framed images of delicate blooms.
Holding forever a botanical bouquet,
memorialized by strokes of a brush.

— SAS Phelps

Lemming Lady Meets Ostrich Woman

We humans love to make up fake stories about all sorts of other animals, using them for moral tales or metaphors of one sort or another. Up to a point, there is no particular harm in this sort of thing. We want our children to be industrious, so we tell them about the little red hen who works hard growing wheat and gets to eat the bread later on. Our children understand hens are not wheat farmers, nor bread bakers, and don't lord it over the other lazy animals. Do our children, as a direct result of this fable, turn into industrious members of society? Maybe. That's another story.

There are some cherished images of animal behavior that are palmed off on us as true things, truly instructive. Why a story about some other species should be truly instructive to us I am not sure, but maybe. Like, because a mosquito gets swatted when it sits on me and sucks my blood, I should beware and not fly around sucking blood for fear of getting swatted. Okay. I'll stay away from it. In this case, the story about the mosquito is true, but it isn't truly instructive for me. I could maybe suck blood, but I can't fly.

Seriously, let's look at two more. We learn from an early age that ostriches, when confronted with danger, bury their heads in the sand. How funny! With their huge bodies sticking up for all to see, they actually think they are invisible because their heads are buried.

You guessed it, this is a false story. Ostriches in the modern genus *Struthio* have been around for twenty million years. Any critters that tried out such crazy predator evasion behavior as putting their heads in the sand have passed into extinction,

sorry to say. Of course this is the point of the metaphor, or whatever it is, that we should not be like the ostrich, should not put our heads in the sand. I don't know why not, since if it were true it would seem like it worked for the ostrich. I think we are urged to be more responsible, braver, more willing to look trouble in the eye than the fake ostrich.

The other false story I want to raise up here is the one about the mass migrations of lemmings, scurrying off some arctic cliff by the thousands, all running along together in what seems like a good idea (important trip to somewhere) but then when they get to the cliff edge there is no turning back due to the relentless tide of more lemmings coming from behind. This is called the "mass suicide myth," and it was dreamed up by a documentary scriptwriter in the Walt Disney Studios for a film called *White Wilderness*, made in 1958. It is a complete fake, and it won an Academy Award for best documentary. The lemmings were real enough, captured in the Hudson Bay area and flown to Calgary, Alberta (a long way from the sea cliffs of the "documentary"), where they were launched off a huge cliff by an ingenious turntable, to their deaths.

What lesson did this teach us kids in the 1950s? I'm trying to remember. Not to get into a big mob of migrating lemmings near a cliff? Not to do like the lemming in some big mob of humans near a cliff? Stay out of mobs, I guess, is what I took away from it.

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It's too bad the film didn't teach us how the lemmings make it through the arctic winter without hibernating, by living beneath the snow. Too bad we didn't find out how closely related they are to our voles, or meadow mice, and muskrats. Too bad all those lemmings actually got killed in order to get an Academy Award.

There are always some lessons here, though, if we can just weasel them out (so to speak … more on weasels another time.) The first one is: don't you believe it. Just because it is in a movie or in some political cartoon (constant use of ostrich image) does not make it useful information about animals. Another one is: it's not okay to kill off thousands of little animals to make a movie. Nowadays the movies reassure us that this is not happening: no lemmings were thrown off a cliff to make this film, we promise. Certified.

But what about the basic moral admonition not to hide from the truth, the danger? Isn't this valuable? And what about the danger of mindlessly running with a mob that might be headed for a cliff? Isn't there some way to teach our children to at least think about these things—maybe without the use of lemmings and ostriches?

I think we all try, and the reason we have to use the animals is we can't very well use ourselves. After all, am I not turning off the news when I can't take it any more? Do I not delete emails without even reading them when I see what organization has sent them? Hello, my name is Ostrich Woman and I have my head in the sand. Sand is my filter. With my head down here I can't see the oil spill, the wars, the cancer epidemic, the corporate greed that is about to toss us over the cliff.

Yes, I am also Lemming Lady. I jump in my car, I turn on the juice. It's business as usual for me, most of the time, and even though I have some intimation that the cliff is out there somewhere, I can't see it from my house (got my head in the sand, remember?) and I gotta get going. Everyone else is going, so it must be the thing to do.

With my head in the sand here, I can't see the mirror. But if I were brave enough to take a look, I know who I would see, and it would not be the little red hen.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Bidwell House Talk: Women in Early American Medicine

Before there was an American Medical Association, before there was even a medical school established in North America, women provided much of the health care for themselves, their families, and their communities. Rebecca Tannenbaum's talk at the Bidwell House Museum on July 31 at 10 am will introduce you to these women.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, medicine was an everyday part of women's work. Young girls learned how to make and use herbal medicines, just as they learned how to make butter and cheese. Housewives nursed their own families and those of their neighbors. Even when a formally educated male physician was called to a case, he usually depended on the women of the household to make up his prescriptions and carry out his orders. Some women became especially skilled at this kind of household medicine and earned the respect and gratitude of their communities.

Other women were more specialized and charged for their services. Childbirth, for instance, was almost entirely in the hands of midwives. Midwives had a high level of skill: they could turn an infant who was in a bad position, use herbal medicines to strengthen uterine contractions and dull pain, and had techniques to deliver the afterbirth efficiently. Midwives were at the center of the groups of women who attended each other in childbirth. As social leaders and medical experts, they had considerable authority in early American communities.

There were also women who called themselves "doctresses." Rather than care for women in childbirth, doctresses took care of many different kinds of illnesses and injuries, and treated men and children as well as women. Doctresses often took patients into their own homes for long-term care. Some of them specialized in treating one kind of illness, such as smallpox. Doctresses usually charged much more than midwives for their services and competed directly with male physicians for patients.

When we think of pioneering women in medicine, we usually think of women like Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to earn an MD in the United States. However, long before Blackwell, other, less famous women also practiced medicine. Join us at the Bidwell House Museum at 10 am on July 31 to learn about this little-known history. Rebecca Tannenbaum teaches at Yale University, where she offers courses on early America, women's history, and the history of medicine. She has published many articles on the history of women in medicine as well as a book, *The Healer's Calling*, which focuses on women medical practitioners in early New England. Her current research project looks at the roles of women and medical professionals in creating modern motherhood.

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Letter from Washington

Our Epic Office Move

I recently coordinated our Roosevelt Institute Campus Network office move across the city, from Dupont Circle to Chinatown. The experience introduced me to a whole new level of bureaucratic headaches, and once again my level of compulsive detailing proved useful. The list of things I did not know about moving proved extensive; apparently the primary way to learn them is to move. How did I learn about these little details? On the fly as it turns out—completely and utterly as needs arose. Lists, double-checking, hours of phone calls, and timelines all help immensely. What could possibly go wrong? That would be almost anything, and hopefully not everything.

In this adventure, I learned about certificates of insurance, building restrictions and regulations, packing frustrations, furniture assemblers, freight elevators, floor plans, electricity, phone systems, mail forwarding (or holding), internet access, getting new keys, and, well, how to go with the flow. Moving reduces one to irritated emails, and nights spent up past midnight trying to figure out timelines. There was a holdup with the lease signing that delayed the move from the end of April to the middle of May—but the final move happened with a three-day notice for Memorial Day weekend. Two of our seven staffers were out of the country – and yes, one of them was my boss. To make matters even more interesting, on Thursday morning, twenty college age kids were showing up for our Summer Academy Program's orientation day. Am I kidding? I only wish. The icing on the cake of course is that my movers cancelled the morning of the move due to the truck breaking down. Fantastic.

In short, we were all playing a fairly high stakes game. Until it was all over, and things did work out late on Friday, May 29, I was nervously waiting for everything to fall apart. I spent hours making sure that people knew what was happening by going over details until I could recite them—in the hopes that would somehow make them happen on their own. I spent a long time hoping that people would be on time, all the while planning that they would be at least a half hour late. I assigned some colleagues to assemble our IKEA furniture, while I remained at the old office coordinating the loading of all our stuff. We actually moved before the weekend. I felt as though it were a final exam in real life—but I passed, with sanity intact. The unpacking was equally challenging: I realized our only phone jack was in the storage closet, with power outlets not fully in, and then tons of books, office supplies, and more to unpack. My colleagues gave me flowers last week as a thank-you for all my efforts.

The final component to this office move, was an office-warming party. Once again, I found myself as point, coordinating the logistics: speakers, food, how to get people up to our rooftop deck, and then promotion, set up and cleanup. Starting at 5:50, we were ready to host, and throughout the course of the event around eighty people showed up. Cleanup took thirty-five minutes, and most people made it to bars and pubs to watch the Celtic game. If I was a go-getter before, now I'm simply fine-tuning some basic skill sets; I know how to get stuff done on a whole new level. I am essentially the office manager these days, making sure everything runs smoothly. Because I invested so much in this place, early on, I know the place inside and out. It is a good feeling.

I am moving as well, next week, from Maryland to southeast DC. I already know that my move is going to be one iota of the challenge that our office move was—I feel like I jumped in the deep end of a freezing cold pool and now am swimming toward the shallow sun-heated end.

If you are ever in DC and want to visit our beautiful new office, go to 455 Massachusetts Ave. NW and admire my handiwork. There were a number of people that I delegated tasks to and asked for assistance, but this time I will happily take a significant amount of credit for this incredibly satisfying outcome. Wishing you all relaxing summer days and lazy evenings.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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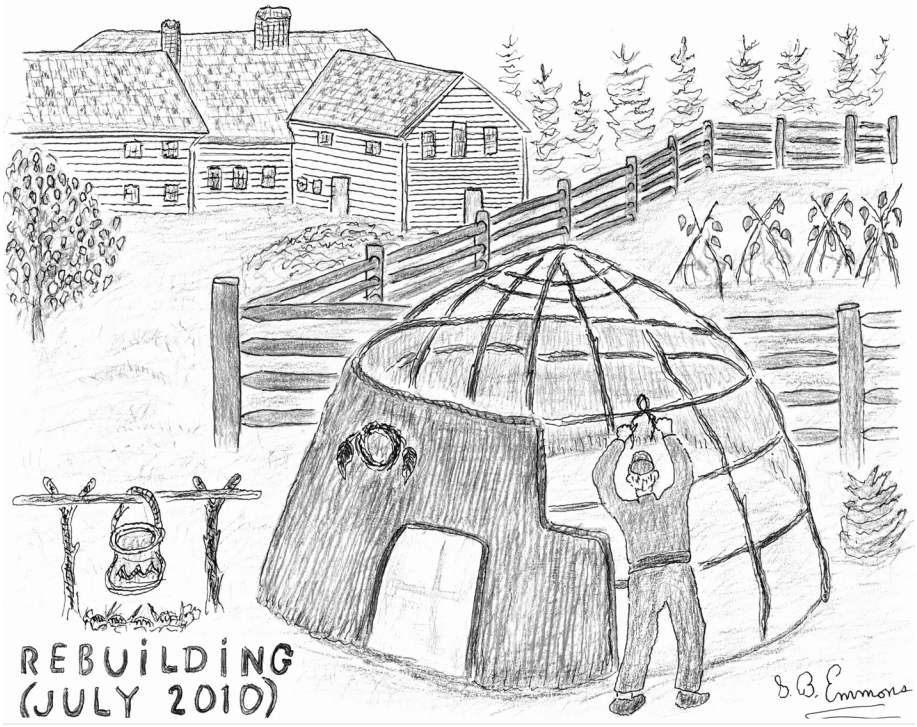
David's Wigwam at Bidwell House Museum



The first wigwam next to the Bidwell House colonial vegetable garden was a generous donation, built by the late David Park McAllester and his wife Beryl. It took them little more than a single day, and he told me it might last from seven to nine years. He was exactly right, because under the heavy snows of last winter the entire structure totally collapsed and was demolished.

The term wigwam itself, usually applied to Indian dwellings of the American northeast, refers to a primitive domed single-room lodge. It often is the hallmark structure of Algonquin woodland people, constructed next to a woodland clearing where crops were cultivated and thought to be protected by the corn spirit. The Bidwell wigwam is adjacent to a new garden fence where Indian crops such as the three sisters are grown, having been handed down through the preservation of the Eastern Native Seed Conservancy.

David McAllester also orchestrated one of the most successful and best-attended Bidwell events ever held there. It was a Native American day, with Indian lore, song, and dance, for which he was eminently qualified after many years as professor of anthropology and ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University. He was also nationally known as founder and editor of The Journal Of Ethnomusicology. After moving to Monterey he became the editor of the Monterey News from 1986 to 1990. Helping David build the first wigwam gave me guidelines to reconstruct it, mostly from memory while being able to look at broken pieces of the original frame.

A wigwam frame itself is made of flexible saplings placed into the ground in a twenty- foot- diameter about two feet apart and then bent over and joined above at a height of six to nine feet under a rounded top with a smoke hole. The final covering was usually mats of bark, grass, rushes, or reeds, joined together with cord made from a spruce root using sewing needles made out of bone. The vertical grain of the reeds also helped the runoff of melting snow or rain to keep the occupants dry. Since they were nomads moving seasonally from place to place, the coverings could easily be carried to the next location.

It took me several weeks to replicate the original dwelling, but I was inspired by David's example. I also had the memory that he died on April 30, 2006, after working in the woods near his home gathering hemlock branches to build a combination wigwam and brush pile. After I finally finished, I liked to think that during the bright days in the clearing, with the sound of birds in the trees overhead, David had been up there looking over my shoulder. As I walked away, I hoped he had also been smiling down.

— George B. Emmons

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Talking with Steve and Sally Pullen

First you see the greenhouses, then the fields across Main Road. Then the little signs come out—peas, broccoli, squash, tomatoes, onions. Who is growing all that food in the center of Monterey? Two of the nicest people you could want to meet, that's who—Steve and Sally Pullen. I sat at their kitchen table recently to talk, and before long we were outside looking at the gardens and trading stories. It was a great inspiration to see all the work they have done.

How did you get started with vegetable gardening?

Steve: We lived in Burlington, Vermont, and we were coordinators for a "Gardens for All" community garden. This nonprofit group later became the National Gardening Association and spun off the Gardeners' Supply Company Catalog, but in those days it was about garden promotion. Our own first garden was double-dug in our front yard, on a little city lot. We had a lot to learn—the first summer we grew ten hills of zucchini! We had zucchini salad, zucchini casserole, zucchini bread, the works. You can imagine what our neighbors thought of our vegetable garden in the front yard. I became known as that crazy vegetable guy.

Steve Pullen

Sally loading up for Lenox Farmers' Market.

Sally: I grew up in Monterey and learned to grow vegetables from my mother [Mary Ward]. She grew everything, and I learned by helping her.

Steve: In 1989 I became Chief Financial Officer of the National Gardening Association; that's when we sold our share of the Gardeners' Supply Company. Some employees of both companies created a CSA (community supported agriculture) farm then too, one of the first ones after Robin Van En's model in Egremont. The original idea was to get the farmer out of the marketing business and back to working the farm. The community assumes the risk of crop failure as well. Intervale Farm is still going and has 450 members today.

How did you get all the work done?

As it grew, Intervale hooked into the University of Vermont agricultural program and got interns that way. We went everywhere to introduce people to the Farm—radio stations, papers—and to convince people to support it. The first year, we sold about two-thirds of the shares needed to sustain the farm. So we had to go to restaurants to encourage them to buy the produce. Remember that there weren't even farmers' markets at that point. The farm was ten acres. A few restaurants took us on, and they really sustained the farm in the early years.

When did you move to Monterey?

Steve: We moved here in 2000 to take care of Sally's parents. When we started the garden here we had just one-eighth of an acre under cultivation and a farm stand. We had so much fun.

Sally: We just love to grow things and have people buy them. Eventually we started selling at the Lenox Farmers' Market where we were one of the original vendors. The LFM has really changed since the beginning—quite a few of the

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big retail produce vendors are now selling through the market, which makes it harder for us. Last year we only had 20 percent of our sales coming from Lenox, and we decided to get out and only have our own farm stand this year. But it was a great experience, and we loved meeting other farmers and vendors. Farmers don't act like typical competitors; they share everything they know. We learned so much from them. But we are happy here. The farm stand is so close to our fields.

Steve: We'll never get rich growing veggies but it's a satisfying way of life. We have some fantastic customers that come back year after year.

Who would you say influenced you the most?

Steve and Sally: We love Eliot Coleman, who writes on winter gardening and organic methods, and we have taken workshops with him. We also learned a tremendous amount from Tom Decker and Debby Barber at Double Decker Farm in Philmont, New York, and Dan Tawzinski of Taft Farms in Great Barrington.

What else would you say has changed over the years that you have been growing food?

Sally: A few years ago we started selling products from other farms along with our own produce. For example, we just don't have the room to grow corn, but we bring it in from Howden Farm in Sheffield, and our customers really like that. Also, Steve makes the pies that we sell, always from fresh fruit in season. We used to buy the blueberries from Maple Corners Farm in Granville only for the pies, but now we sell the blueberries as well. Last year we started getting blueberries from Bob Carlson, and we sell Karl Finger's raspberries too. We sell peaches and apples from Robert's Hillside Orchards in Granville.

How do you get started each growing season?

Sally: We start inside the heated farm stand about the middle of March with onions and leeks, and flowers. I grow dahlias from seed and a lot of other annual flowers by special order for local landscapers. Once we move the onions out we start the lettuces, and then they go to the greenhouses too.

You have a fantastic propagation setup with your grow lights and shelves in the farm stand in the spring.

Steve: Oh, yes. We set this all up every late winter and take it all down again to make space for the farm stand, but it is worth it. We have really tried to phase out plastic as much as possible. We use recycled wooden boxes (originally used to ship gold and silver) given to us by Michael and Maureen Banner. We make our own soil blocks too instead of using plastic pots, which really cuts down on transplanting work as well as eliminating the need for plastic seedling trays. We get our organic potting soil from Vermont. Choosing the right potting soil really makes a difference in the plants' growth.

What happens next?

In early May we start the winter squashes in little "cow pots." These pots are expensive but very worthwhile to use and they get planted right into the ground. Right around this time we also start the broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and cabbages as well.

How do you prepare your garden?

We use leaves for mulch, about 6–8 inches thick, with newspaper underneath. Leaves have been a great source of compost for us—they draw earthworms like crazy! We have used leaves to improve the soil for many years. We use only organic soil amendments and fertilizers. Our veggies are grown to organic standards although we haven't gotten the farm certified.

Let's take a walk outside. You have two really big fields in the back of your house. How do you get all the work done?

We have about one-half acre under cultivation here and more across Main Road on land owned by Mark and Theresa Amstead. We've been doing this for a long time now, but it is still a matter of dealing with the most pressing crises of the day! The hard work is worth it when you know you're producing a healthy quality product. Besides, some days it doesn't even feel like work because we really enjoy what we do.

— Ruth Green

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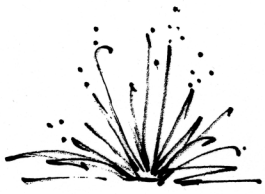
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Wildlife Report: Eagles, Woodcocks, Bears, a Toad

This has been a busy month for wildlife sightings, with two kinds of turtles on the move, red foxes, bears galore, and lots more. Steve Snyder has been out on the back roads on his bike. He reports an owl chasing a woodcock right down the dirt road, a doe and fawn in the Scheffeys' field, turkeys with chicks (turklings?), and a woodcock walking along the shoulder of Wallace Hall Road.

Steve Rose has also seen a woodcock foraging in a swamp near Lake Buel, about ten feet away from where he stood. Both Steves felt pretty much unnoticed by their woodcocks. Also near Lake Buel, Steve Rose has seen a yellow warbler, a red-bellied woodpecker, cedar waxwings feasting on berries, an orange-crowned warbler, and a bald eagle stooping to pick up a dead fish on the lake. He knew it was not an osprey because an osprey would have grabbed the fish in its talons, whereas the eagle picked it up in its beak. There were wood ducks, too, on Lake Buel.

Steve Snyder lives in a cabin near Rawson Brook. There he has seen a common merganser with six youngsters, beavers, muskrats, and both painted and snapping turtles. In his back-road rambles he has seen many porcupines and deer, and on Saturday, June 26, a big black bear was walking around Main House at Gould Farm (photographed at right by Steve's neighbor, Michal Lumsden).

Michal Lumsden

Steve has been hearing veeries and wood thrushes in the woods by Hyde Falls and spotted a pair of great blue herons flying together, a rare sight.

Luca Nencetti and Zazie Schafer of Beartown Mtn. Road spotted and photographed a black bear around 8:00 pm on June 18. The bear was eating goutweed, which led me to do a little research and discover that we, too, could be eating it instead of reviling it. Or maybe in addition to.

Ruth Green saw a bald eagle flying over the middle of Monterey, and Cora Baker saw a red fox in daytime, walking around the small meadow on east Hupi Road. Elizabeth Maschmeyer, who drives the back roads at night on the way to and from her work, has seen red foxes and a young bear, in Clayton. She has a pair of cardinals near her home in Otis and a great blue heron nearby. Chuck Pierce reports the only bobcat for the month, crossing Corashire Road, and a pair of bluebirds in residence in his nest box, at last. Maureen Banner had a Baltimore oriole fly out of her compost bin and also gobble down strawberries in her patch.

David Emmel sent in a good photo and a touching story about a big female snapping turtle who lays her eggs year after year near the parking lot in Connecticut where he parks to go to work. Most times the eggs are eaten up before they hatch, and when there are hatchlings, the little turtles head off across the pavement, easy prey for hungry urban seagulls. David has sometimes been able to rescue the little turtles.

Joe Baker has been enjoying the company of an American toad in the woodyard where he works in the afternoons.

Thanks to all our local observers, and please send me your sightings.

— Bonner McAllester,
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10th Annual "What the Heck is the FLG and Why Should I Give a Hoot?" Quiz

1. FLG stands for …

A. The First Ladies of Garfield, an elite club of women who have dipped a toe in Lake Garfield and also been the country's First Lady. Membership has consisted solely of Lucretia "Crete" Garfield, beloved wife of former president James A. Garfield, mother of seven children, and First Lady from March 4, 1881, to September 19, 1881. The club is currently defunct.

B. Friends of Lake Garfield - a tireless collection of community-minded folks, deeply dedicated to the preservation and protection of our glorious Lake Garfield, for all to enjoy. Visit our website for news and membership info. Become a friend at www.lakegarfield.org or call 413-528-9090. (But, not before 9:30 am).

C. Five Lazy Goats. (A five-year-old helped me with this entry.)

D. Four Lazy Goats. (Same kid, a whiz with numbers.)

2. It's essential to remember August 14 because …

A. It's the 110th anniversary of the 1st electric tram in the Netherlands (Leidseplein-Brouwersgracht, pronounced Leidseplein-Brouwersgracht).

B. On August 14, 1873 *Field and Stream* began publishing.

C. It's LakeFest 2010! Yippee do da day!!! Write it down. And while you're at it, might as well jot the LGA meetings at 9:30 Am at the Firehouse on July 10 & August 7. All are welcome. Show up. Have your voice heard. Participate.

D. It's the birthday of Pramodaya Wickremasinhghe, cricketer, Sri Lankan fast-medium bowler. (What year was he born? If you guessed 1972, you were so close. It was 1971.) (Can you imagine the headline if Promoday Wichremasinhghe rode on the first tram?!)

3. What are Zebra Mussels?

A. That's what zebras get from a disciplined regimen of weightlifting.

B. A black & white seafood delight, served at the General Store, so smothered in garlic that Otis residents claim to smell them cooking.

C. Five lazy goats. (Kid, go home!)

D. First detected in the United States in the Great Lakes, in 1988, zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) are an invasive species. An adult female zebra mussel may produce between 30,000 and one million eggs per year. (And on a Sunday, not one comes to visit.) Zebra mussels often eliminate other fresh water mussel species. About the size of a fingernail, they grow in clusters that can clog drainage pipes and boat motors. Wikipedia reports they were found in Laurel Lake in the Berkshires in 2009, their first intrusion into Massachusetts waters. Fear not, Monterey, your FLG has been on the case. Working hand in hand with the state in 2009, traps in Lake Garfield showed no presence of zebra mussels. This year's traps went into the lake on June 15. Make sure to clean and dry your watercraft after contact with other waterways so that those zebra traps come up empty this year again. And here's more good news … water testing shows that while Lake Garfield's pH is hospitable to zebra mussels, the calcium content of our lake water is too low to support shell development. (That is most certainly a deal breaker for these little bivalves.)

4. If you would like to know about Lake Garfield's safe boating rules, information on lake ecology and the Lake Garfield watershed (whatever that is) …

A. The Harvard University doctoral program offers a one-semester 3-credits course, costing $10,902.49.

B. Ask the five lazy goats. (Kid, beat it!)

C. Visit LakeGarfield.org for all of that info, plus lots more.

D. Get a job so you don't have so much time on your hands.

ANSWERS: 1, B; 2, C; 3, D; 4, C.

Once again, I fess up. You can blame Hy Rosen for this quiz.

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Electromagnetic Pollution & Radiofrequency Hazards

We have written articles for several years about our concerns about electrical pollution, including noise and radiofrequency radiation transmitted over power lines in Monterey. We are writing again to update residents about the status of testing to be performed and to keep readers abreast of current research.

In August, 2009 we received confirmation from MA Department of Environmental Protection and Bureau of Environmental Health, as well as Departments of Public Utilities and Telecommunications, that the evidence we presented warranted further testing. The Director of the Bureau of Environmental Health notified us that a testing plan would be developed by National Grid and Verizon to identify sources of pollution. To date, the testing has not taken place. Over the past year, the utility companies, especially National Grid, have stalled and redirected the process to minimize the scope of testing. Nonetheless, with persistence and substantiated evidence of a real problem, we pushed on. Our latest piece of evidence was gained from a forensic audio engineer, who studied recordings captured in and around the town of Monterey. He confirmed the presence of an audible constant, microwave pulsing, producing a 217 Hz "pure tone" and recommended radiofrequency testing to determine the source. Up to that time, the utility companies have resisted providing any EMF or radiofrequency testing, stating simply that this type of testing was unnecessary and not be helpful. Currently, we are awaiting a response from the team as they attempt to answer the "challenging" questions and points we have raised since substantiating our claims. We are not holding our breaths.

A current antenna search revealed a microwave tower of which the town has no knowledge. Despite the fact that Monterey has "supposedly" no cell phone coverage, the 217Hz is pulsing on our electrical wires, as if we did have a cell tower. The tower in question is off Sandisfield Road, identified as IDT SPECTRUM. The contact provided will not return any calls.

The 217Hz pulsing is a commonly understood culprit and symptom of disruptive and degenerative frequencies that the cell phone industry would rather we not become aware of, preferring to keep users in the dark. Residents should be informed about the invisible EMF exposures that 217Hz reveals, especially those already feeling disturbing symptoms of radiofrequency sensitivity. This is not a disease, but a cumulative progressive environmentally induced functional impairment (www.electricalpollution.com) with disabling consequences. Many of us are now becoming more aware of the effects of cordless (or DECT) phones, which also pulse modulated microwave signals from the base. Many of our physicist friends have removed their cordless phones in the interest of preserving their health.

Current safety regulations are not adequately designed to protect us from non-thermal hazards posed by such devices. Furthermore, FCC standards have relaxed, allowing the propagation of such devices and backing the utility industry requirement that we all have radiofrequency transmitting utility meters.

If you read articles about the electric grid (the most recent in July *National Geographic*) you'll notice a trend toward increasing what are referred to as "smart technologies." Public Utilities are replacing existing rotating disk electrical meters (which are read by meter readers) with radio transmitting electrical meters, which transmit strong bursts of radiofrequency radiation. While this technology may indeed assist the utility companies with gaining information about customer usage, it also increases radiofrequency radiation and electromagnetic pollution in our environments, causing health hazards. Consumers should know that non-transmitting meters are an option. We have the right to ask for alternatives.

Recently a working group (go to

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weepinitiative.org; www; www.electricalpollution.com; emrpolicy.org for more information) summarized more than 2,000 scientific studies about the toxic effects of EMF. The results of these studies indicate that even low-level radiation and exposure to low frequency voltage signals (1Hz–100kHz) can cause health hazards. Dr. Michael Persinger, PhD, neuroscientist, studied the effects of EMF, and said "this electromagnetic soup" overlaps the human nervous system, contributing to many ill effects. Humans are electromagnetic beings, with electrical currents. Electromagnetic fields are created from radio signals and electronic devices and are carried across utility wires throughout neighborhoods and into our homes. Wireless technology contributes to the ever increasing "soup" disrupting the communication systems of our bodies. While it remains invisible, this soup is what surrounds us, even in our beautiful town of Monterey. Becoming knowledgeable about the ingredients and expressing your opinions about the "taste" is your right.

If you don't know what you are dealing with, the utility companies have you in their pockets, just the same as they do the state regulatory agencies. And after the Gulf Oil spill we all know how well that ends up.

Stay tuned.

— S. Chianfoni and L. Catullo

P. O. Box 9, 01245

Lake Garfield Drawdown

To the Editor:

I was happy to read the report of the Friends of Lake Garfield Ecology Group (p. 8, June *Monterey News*) written by P. Edelstein. She reports that the hired biologist(s) who surveyed the lakeshore found plenty of reptiles and amphibians and dubbed the wetland on the east end "a jewel' for wildlife." I could not agree more about the wetland at the east end of the lake. We are so lucky.

As for the conclusion ("What does this mean . . ."), I must disagree. It is not the "scientifically executed drawdown" that has favored the wildlife. It is the beaver pond at the east end, the only part of the lake NOT subjected to annual draining of water from the very habitat crucial to survival of hibernating reptiles and amphibians. These animals are cold-blooded (poikilotherms), which means their bodies cool off when the ambient temperature gets cool. To avoid freezing to death, they go down into the mud underwater in the shallows of the lake. Many do this starting in mid-September.

This ancient system of survival evolved in natural wetlands not subjected to the annual removal of water above the mud. The removal, in Lake Garfield, allows the mud and any dormant animals in it, to freeze. Years ago it was recommended by state biologists that any drawing down of the lake be started in September with a gradual change in level, to be completed by October 15. (Personal communication with Leo Daly and Tom Keefe at Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, September 1986). In order to accommodate boaters and swimmers during the last glory weekends of the fall, the town decided upon a compromise schedule that would begin in early October and be complete by mid-October. And according to Leo Daly, even the proponents of lake drawdown never recommended its use year after year, as it discourages some species of pondweeds and encourages others.

To attribute the presence of turtles and salamanders to "careful management" is in my opinion wrong thinking. These animals can be seen around the lake thanks to the recharge or repopulation capability of the beaver ponds on Peppermint Brook and at the east end in the "jewel." If we want to thank someone, we can remember that David and Susan McAllester put the east wetland into conservation restriction, in a gift to the Monterey Land Trust. We should also thank the beavers who keep up the dams so the water level in the wildlife jewel stays constant over the mud, protecting the animals in it from freezing. Of course billions of benthic organisms all around the lakeshore are not so lucky.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Our Lady of the Hills Opens for Summer

The Roman Catholic chapel in Monterey, Our Lady of the Hills, will be open for mass beginning Saturday, July 3. The masses are every Saturday evening through the end of August. The Eucharistic celebration begins at 7 pm. You are welcome to come any and every Saturday. The chapel is at 70 Beartown Mountain Road. This is the same structure Mike Erkkinen wrote an article about in the *Monterey News* earlier this year.

You will enjoy meeting our new priest, Fr. Bruce Teague. He has been a parish priest in several different churches and a hospital chaplain for years. He makes visits to Fairview Hospital and the nursing homes as needed.

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions.

Herbert Coyne
Cynthia Weber
Rosanna Murray & Liz Sanchez
Julie Johnston
Ann Canning
Mr & Mrs Frank Duke
Leslie & Curtis Paine
Ed & Carolyn O'Malley

CATA Art Show & Poetry

On Thursday, July 29, from 5–7 pm, Community Access to the Arts (CATA) will present "I am a Part of Art," the annual art show and poetry reading at 70 Railroad Street gallery (behind the Triplex). The event is free and open to the public.

Community Access to the Arts provides visual and performing arts workshops for over 500 people with disabilities throughout Berkshire County. Paintings, pastels, collages, and drawings were selected from artwork created in CATA's Arts In/Arts Out workshops taught by CATA faculty artists Susie Hardcastle, Pat Hogan, Leslie Klein, Marlene Marshall, Senta Reis, and Janice Shields. Created under the artistic umbrella of CATA's 2010 theme, "Sticks & Stones," all artwork is for sale and will be on display through August 31. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm and weekends by appointment.

The twenty-minute poetry reading starts promptly at 5 pm and features works written by CATA participants in a year-long class led by Carol Stroll. This year's guest reader is Donald Platt, an award-winning author and poet, and the brother of one of CATA's participants. A professor of English at Purdue University, Platt is a recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. His poems have appeared in *The New Republic*, *The Paris Review*, and *Best American Poetry* 2000 and 2006.

Community Access to the Arts nurtures and celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts. For information, call 413-528-5485.

Rermembering Blanche Mednick

On the sunny, warm, birdsong morn of May 21, Blanche A. Mednick died in her Monterey home, concluding a brief, heroic battle against cancer and a life dedicated to the education of children, the salvaging of forgotten pets, and the expression of thought through her poetry, prose, and playwrighting. No stranger to the worst life can offer, Blanche marshaled her son, Brian, through the final years of his young adult life, an early victim of the AIDS pandemic, and later coproduced the film *Tuesday Night*, a documentary about the mothers' support group she so valued.

In time, she left the green hills of Brooklyn's Prospect Park for the greener hills of upstate New York, which meant learning to drive at the age of 40, and, later, for Massachusetts, where she and her dog, Sadie, had often to fend off bears in the backyard (well, maybe once). She never missed the city; this was home.

Hatchery Lobsterfest Aug 22

The Berkshire Hatchery Foundation, Inc., is sponsoring its ninth annual lobsterfest at the hatchery on Hatchery Road, New Marlborough, on Sunday, August, 22, at 2:00 pm. Come and enjoy good food and good company. Tour the hatchery & see trout and salmon raised at the hatchery. Tickets are $65.00. Call 413 528-9761.

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, 4 p.m., Town Hall.

Every Sunday through October: Softball at Greene Park, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 3:

Township No. 1 Day Community Celebration, 1–4:30 pm, Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road. Pie/cake contest, live music, antiques appraisals, history and gardening talks, exhibits, tours, games, popcorn, cotton candy, watermelon. Free. For event times and details, go to www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Professor Read-a-lot, Magician, 10:30 am, Monterey Library.

Monday, July 5: Town Hall, library closed in observance of Independence Day.

Thursday, July 8: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall, 2–3 pm.

Saturday, July 10:

Children's story hour with crafts, 10:30 am, Monterey Library.

Bidwell Museum Colonial History Series talk by John Demos, "The Lost World of Early America: Social Life, Social Conventions, and Rules in the 1700s," Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham, 10 am. See p. 8.

Evening of Music with Seth Farber, Liz Queler, & Joey Farber, 7 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse. Free; see p. 11.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

Saturdays, July 10 & 17: Poetry Classes with Deborah Bernhardt, 3–5 pm, Monterey General Store. $20; see p. 11. Free public reading, Sunday, July 18, at 3 pm at General Store.

Monday, July 12: Friends of Monterey Library meeting to organize book sale. 6:30 pm, Library. Everyone invited.

Tuesday, July 20: CHP Free Health Screening, 10 am–noon. Town Hall Meeting Room. For appointment call Luci Leonard, 644-0104 x15. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Friday, July 16: Expressive Pastel Painting Workshop with Greg Maicheck, 6–8 pm, Meetinghouse basement. Free, pre-registration required; see p. 11.

The Observer
May 26 – June 25

High temp. (5/26)	90°
Low temp. (6/9)	41°
Avg. high temp.	74.3°
Avg. low temp.	52.7°
Avg. temp.	63.5°
Total rainfall	4.33 in.

Rainfall occurred on 14 days.

Saturday, July 17: Children's story hour with crafts, 10:30 am, Library.

Saturday, July 24:

Dr. Marmalade and Puppet Friends, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library. Free.

Building a Traditional New England Stone Wall, workshop with Roger Tryon, 10 am, Bidwell House. $10. See p. 10.

Otis Arts Festival, 9 am–3 pm, Farmington River Elementary School, 555 Main Road (Rte. 8), Otis. Free; see p. 12.

Tuesday, July 27: Blood drive sponsored by Monterey Board of Health, 10 am–3 pm, Town Hall. Go to www.givelife.org or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule appointment.

Saturday, July 31:

Friends of Monterey Library Plant & Used Book Sale, 9 am–1 pm, Library.

Songs and stories with Tom Sieling, 10:30 am, Monterey Library.

"Women in Early American Medicine," talk by Rebecca Tannenbaum, Bidwell House Museum, 10 am. See p. 17.

Firemen's Steak Roast, 6 pm, Firehouse pavilion. See a fireman for tickets.

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Contributions from local and visiting artists this month: Pat Arnow, 23; David Paul Bacharach, 13; Maureen Banner, 8, 10, 26; George Emmons, 19; Bonner McAllester, 16.

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